

# MARINE SAFETY BULLETIN

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## *SECURITY ZONES IN EFFECT* *FOR ALL VESSELS*

Security zones are in place for two Mississippi River locations within metropolitan New Orleans and Baton Rouge. In New Orleans, all vessels without permission from the Captain of the Port New Orleans are prohibited from operating between Mile Marker (MM) 89, at the overhead power transmission lines located in Chalmette, to MM 103 at the Cargill Grain Elevator. In Baton Rouge, all vessels without permission from the Captain of the Port New Orleans are prohibited from operating between MM 229 at the I-10 Bridge, to MM 234 at the Highway 190 Bridge. Entry or movement within these zones is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Coast Guard Captain of the Port New Orleans. In certain instances on-scene Coast Guard vessels will be dispatched to vessels requesting entry into the zones to question, and on occasion do inspections of the vessel prior to allowing its entry. In particular, recreational and fishing vessels may experience lengthy delays and are encouraged to consider alternate routes outside the security zones.

The two security zones are effective from 8:00 p.m. on March 24, 2003 until 8:00 p.m. on April 7, 2003. In New Orleans, all mariners are asked to contact Vessel Traffic Service Lower Mississippi River on VHF-FM channel 12 or by telephone at (504) 589-2812 to request authorization to transit. In Baton Rouge, mariners are asked to contact Marine Safety Unit Baton Rouge on VHF-FM channel 83 to request authorization to transit. Violation of a security zone is punishable by a fine of up to \$25,000. All persons and vessels within a security zone shall comply with the instructions of designated on-scene U.S. Coast Guard patrol personnel.

Small boats, pleasure craft and recreational and commercial fishermen are encouraged to avoid sailing in the vicinity of cruise ships, cruise ship terminals, and waterfront facilities such as oil refineries, chemical plants, and nuclear power facilities.

The Coast Guard is encouraging mariners to participate in Homeland Security efforts. Two 24-hour telephone numbers are available to report suspicious activity: the Coast Guard National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802 and the Louisiana State Office of Homeland Security at 1-800-434-8007.